

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**CLOSURE OF BELKOFSKI BAY AND DEER ISLAND TANNER CRAB FISHERY IN
THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE SOUTH PENINSULA DISTRICT**

EMERGENCY ORDER NO. 4-S-3-12

In the Western Section of the South Peninsula District, all waters of between 162° W. longitude and 162° 30' W. longitude (Belkofski Bay and Deer Island) will close to Tanner crab fishing at 5:59 p.m. on Thursday, January 19, 2012. Catch reports indicate harvest will approach survey estimates of allowable Tanner crab surplus. Further harvest is not warranted to protect the long-term health of Tanner crab in this area.

All pots within the closed area must be unbaited and doors open at the time of the closure. Unbaited pots may be stored in the closed area in waters deeper than 25 fathoms for 72 hours. After 72 hours, all pots remaining in the closed area must be removed from the water or placed in waters shallower than 25 fathoms. Vessels operators are not required to deliver crab harvested from the closed area unless changing section registration.

Fishing south of Cape Pankof (54° 39.37' N. lat.; 163° 03.49' W. long.) and west of 162° 30' W. longitude in the South Peninsula District – Western Section will remain open until further notice.